

Frequently Asked Questions: The Emerald Ash Borer

What is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)?

The EAB is an Asian beetle that kills ash species including white, green, black and blue ash trees. It originated in eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea, and was first discovered in North America in 2002 in southeastern Michigan and Windsor, Ontario.

What does the Emerald Ash Borer look like?

EAB adults are dark metallic green with a purple or red abdomen under the wings. They are approximately 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide.

Larvae are hard to see because they are only found in the bark. They are creamy white in color; their expanding S-shaped tunnels may only be seen if the bark is removed.

How does the EAB spread?

Most movement of the EAB has been traced back to the movement of ash firewood or ash nursery stock. Movement of other ash wood, wood chips greater than one inch, and ash products such as logs, lumber, and pallets generally present lesser risks.

New York State currently has a restriction in place on the movement of firewood to protect our forests from invasive pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer.

Has the Emerald Ash Borer been found in the Town of Greece?

While the EAB has not yet been found in any trees in the Town of Greece, we are located in the quarantine expansion area. By limiting the movement of firewood to a 50 mile radius of where it was originally cut, you can help us prevent the spread of the EAB to our community.



The Emerald Ash Borer Beetle and an example of a tree that has been infected with the Emerald Ash Borer.

What is being done in the Town of Greece?

The Town of Greece Department of Public Works has conducted an ash tree survey of Town-owned trees in Town Right of Ways and at Town Parks within the day-use areas (excluding trails and open space land). If a tree on Town Property becomes infected, we will remove the tree.

Will the Town of Greece treat or replace the ash tree on my property?

The Town of Greece is prohibited from entering private property to remove or repair trees of any kind. Please consult with a local tree

service company or arborist with any questions and concerns you might have regarding trees on your property.

For a list of registered tree service companies in the Town of Greece visit the Town Clerk's page of our website, www.greecenyny.gov/clerk and click on the "Registered Tree Service" option on the left-hand side of the page.

What can I do to protect my ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer?

There are various systemic insecticides on the market today, but they can be expensive and their effectiveness varies. The decision to treat your ash tree(s) is based on your personal preference. Be sure to educate yourself on the various insecticides and use caution when purchasing a product that claims to protect trees against the Emerald Ash Borer.

For more information on the types of insecticides that are available, visit www.emeraldashborer.info/treatment.cfm.

What can I do to help?

Understanding the specific threat to your trees, quarantines and regulations, and your options is the first thing you should do. Not doing so could cause unnecessary loss of your valuable shade trees.

The most important thing you can do is restrict the movement of your firewood. Cut or purchase your firewood from approximately the same location where you plan to use it. Lastly, do not take any leftover firewood home with you if you are camping or vacationing outdoors.

For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer, visit our website at www.greecenyny.gov/eab.